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**ACCREDITING  
COMMISSION  
for COMMUNITY and  
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

January 31, 2005

Dr. Constance Carroll  
Chancellor  
San Diego Community College District  
3375 Camino del Rio South  
San Diego, California 92108

Dear Chancellor Carroll:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on January 12-14, 2005, reviewed the institutional self study reports submitted by San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, and San Diego Miramar College, as well as, the reports of the evaluation teams which visited the colleges and the District on October 5-7, 2004.

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting, the Commission acted to reaffirm accreditation of all three institutions and require that they each complete Focused Midterm Reports on the issues identified in their respective action letters (attached). Some of these recommendations direct the colleges to work with the District to correct the deficiencies noted (below). In addition, San Diego Miramar College is required to submit a Progress Report by October 15, 2005 on Recommendation #2 in the evaluation team report.

The colleges and the district are to be commended for their focus on student learning, their progress on establishing student learning outcomes at the course, program and institutional levels, and their commitment to move toward a regular, systematic, and direct assessment of the outcomes. The visiting teams made special note of the district support of the district-wide curriculum and schedule that provide exceptional access for students and facilitate their ability to obtain the education they want and need.

All colleges are required to file a Midterm Report in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation. Midterm Reports indicate progress toward meeting the evaluation team's recommendations and forecast where the college expects to be by the time of the next comprehensive evaluation. The Midterm Report also includes a summary of progress on college-identified concerns as expressed in the self study report. A Focused Midterm Report is a midterm report which must give evidence of progress on recommendations selected for emphasis by the Commission.

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Under the Commission's *Policy and Procedure for the Evaluation of Institutions in Multi-College/Multi-Unit Districts or Systems*,

“Individual colleges are the unit of analysis for the accreditation evaluations and, regardless of their organizational structure, the Commission holds colleges responsible for meeting the Standards. The central district/system plays a substantial role in the institution's ability to adhere to all the Standards of Accreditation and gain and sustain accredited status.”

Recognizing the role that the District plays in institutional quality, the Commission notifies all district Chancellors of team recommendations that pertain specifically or partially to District operations in a separate letter to the Chancellor. To that end, the Commission wishes to call to your attention the following recommendations that the evaluation teams have made for San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, and San Diego Miramar College, respectively. The Commission further urges that the District work with the colleges to resolve the recommendations:

**Recommendations from the San Diego City College Team Report:**

**Recommendation 1.4** – In order to coordinate and assist the master planning efforts already established at the colleges, the district should continue its work to formulate an overall strategic plan that will provide a vision for the future development of the district, based upon extensive dialogue among faculty and staff, students, college and district leaders, board members, and the community. (Standards I.B.3; I.B.4; II.A.2.f; IV.B.1.b)

**Recommendation 3.1** – The district, in cooperation with the colleges, should explore new efforts and initiatives to identify the barriers that limit the diversity of their workforce and to ensure that faculty and staff reflect the rich diversity of their student body. (Standard III.A.4)

**Recommendations from the San Diego Mesa College Team Report:**

**Recommendation 1.4** – In order to build upon their efforts to strengthen institutional effectiveness and to foster a “culture of evidence” throughout the district, the district office and the colleges should cooperate in the development of an enhanced research function with both strong district and strong college components. (Standards I.B.3, I.B.6, IV.B.2.b)

**Recommendation 1.5** – In order to coordinate and assist the master planning efforts already established at the colleges, the district should continue its work to formulate an overall strategic plan that will provide a vision for the future development of the district, based upon extensive

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dialogue among faculty and staff, students, college and district leaders, board members, and the community. (Standards I.B.3, I.B.4, I.B.5, I.B.6, I.B.7, II.A.2.f, IV.B.1, IV.B.3)

**Recommendation 3.2** – The district, in cooperation with the colleges, should explore new efforts and initiatives to identify and address the barriers that limit the diversity of their workforce and to ensure that faculty and staff reflect the rich diversity of their student body. (Standard III.A.4.b)

**Recommendations from the San Diego Miramar College Team Report:**

**Recommendation 7:** The college work with the district to implement a district-wide strategic plan that integrates with the college's vision, mission, and strategic plan. (Standards IV.B.1, B.1.b)

Copies of the action letters for San Diego City, San Diego Mesa and San Diego Miramar Colleges are attached. The Commission expects that you share this letter widely with interested parties at the colleges and within the District, including the Board of Trustees.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno  
Executive Director

BAB/tl

cc: Dr. Terrence Burgess, President, San Diego City College  
Ms. Margaret Gratton, Interim President, San Diego Mesa College  
Mr. Ron Manzoni, Interim President, San Diego Miramar College  
Board Chair, San Diego CCD